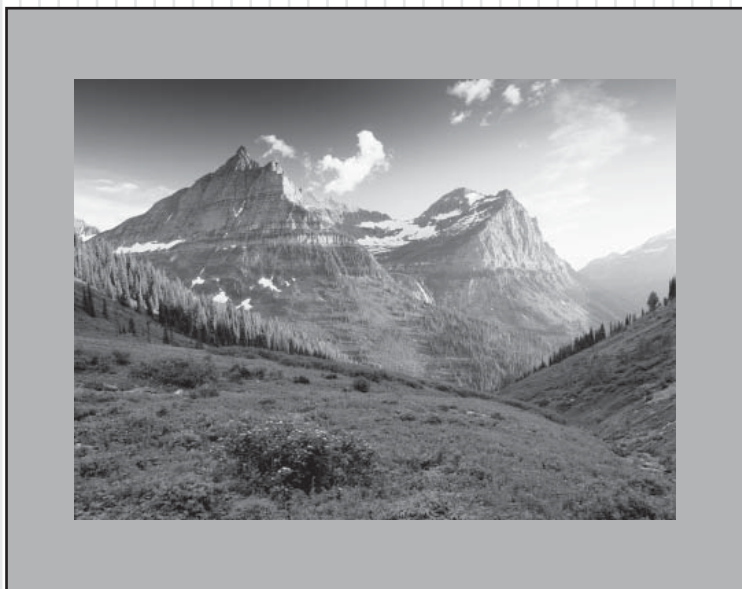


*Montana*  
*Comprehensive Assessment*  
*System (MontCAS, Phase 2)*  
*Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)*

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE  
READING, GRADE 5

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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# Reading Session 1

Read this article about making special treats for birds. Then answer the questions that follow.

## Fine Fat Specialties

by Robyn Haus

*Bring out the fat! (For the birds, not for us humans, that is!) Suet and other fats are bird favorites in fall, winter, and spring, when birds need all the energy they can get. In winter, put out a chunk of suet (available from the meat department of your supermarket) or make your own suet treats by mixing suet or other fats with bird foods. Try suet substitutes, such as peanut butter and vegetable shortening, too.*

### Basic Suet Mixture

Collect some fat such as suet, lard, or the drippings from roasts and bacon, purchased seeds, bits of dried fruit, and whatever bird edibles you have on hand. Use roughly  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound (250 g) of fat for every pound (500 g) of dry ingredients. Melt or soften the fat (ask for adult help with this step); then add the dry ingredients, mixing well. Pour it into a container, chill to harden in your refrigerator, and serve it to the birds!

### Super-Simple Seed Cubes

Melted suet or softened vegetable shortening

Unroasted and unsalted peanut bits

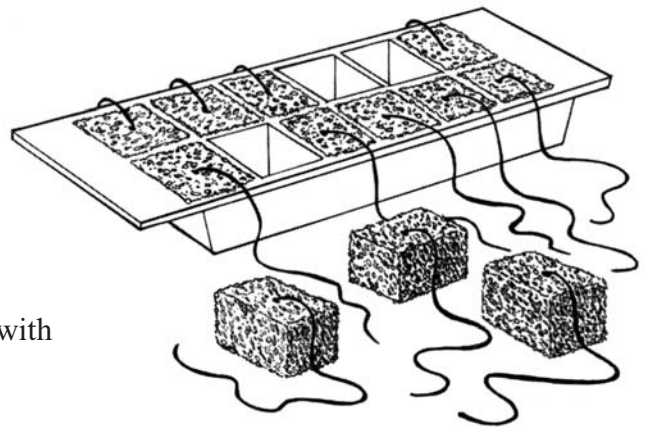
Raisins or chopped apple

Birdseed

Ice-cube tray

String

1. Mix in the solid ingredients with the melted suet.
2. Pour the mixture into an ice-cube tray (ask for adult help with any hot liquids).
3. Insert a short piece of string into each cube.
4. Put the tray in your freezer to harden into easy-to-hang cubed bird treats!



### Bird Bell

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup (125 ml) peanut butter

1 cup (250 ml) birdseed

$2\frac{1}{2}$  cups (625 ml) cornmeal

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup (125 ml) softened vegetable shortening  
or melted suet

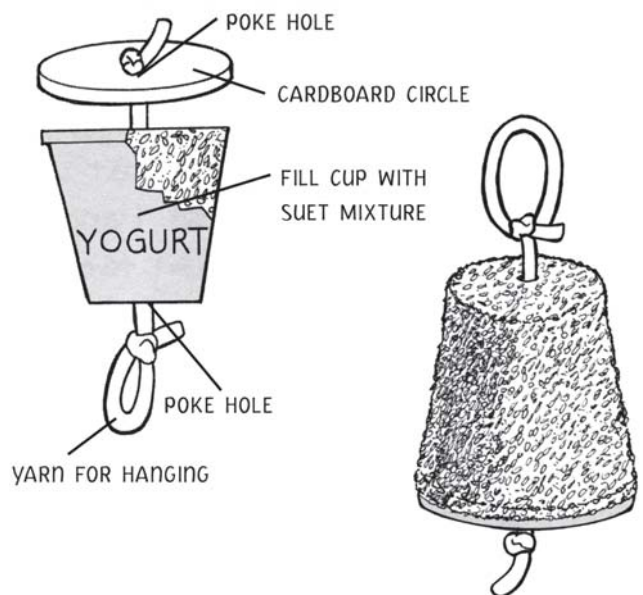
Small yogurt container or paper cup

Cardboard circle, about 2" (5 cm) in diameter

Nail or sharp pencil, for poking hole

Yarn

1. Mix the ingredients together in a large bowl.
2. Make the bell as shown.
3. Press the mixture into the cup and pull the yarn up tight so the cardboard circle fits snugly against the bottom.
4. Chill to harden; then cut or peel the cup away. Hang the birdseed bell from a tree so the flock can feast!



**Bird Cupcakes:** Drop the peanut butter-birdseed-fat mixture into the cups of greased muffin tins or paper muffin cups. Push a stick through the middle of each “cupcake” to create a hole for hanging. Chill to harden, remove sticks, and thread yarn through the hole (knot at one end) to hang.

**Suet Cakes:** To make your own suet cakes, use the Basic Suet Mixture to fill muffin tins, tuna-fish or cat-food cans, yogurt or cottage cheese containers, coffee or soup cans—whatever you have on hand—chill to harden; then hang with yarn.

### Sunflower Seed Log

Roll the Winter Breakfast mixture (see below) into a log shape, coat with sunflower seeds, and chill until solid. Hang with string or ribbon for easy feeding!

### Winter Breakfast

1½ cups (375 ml) suet, chopped  
½ cup (125 ml) peanut butter  
¼ cup (50 ml) granulated sugar  
1 cup (250 ml) cornmeal  
½ cup (125 ml) cooked oatmeal  
½ cup (125 ml) birdseed mixture, or more as needed

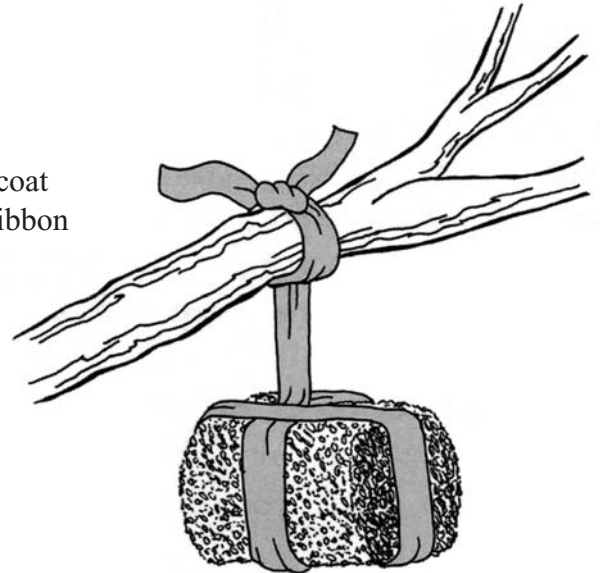
Mix the ingredients together, and spoon into a coffee-can feeder or feeder stick.

### Summer Treat

*Young birds and fruit-lovers like tanagers and orioles will appreciate the jelly in this mix!*

5 parts cornmeal  
1 part peanut butter  
½ part softened vegetable shortening  
½ part apple, grape, or currant jelly

Mix ingredients together. Spoon into tuna-fish cans or other feeders to serve.



### True Grit

Since birds don't have teeth, they eat small, hard materials like sand and gravel to help them break up their food in their gizzards. You can purchase grit at pet stores or feed stores, or make your own. Add some grit to suet and peanut butter recipes to make them easier to eat. This simple grit recipe uses eggshells to help birds digest their food (and it provides much-needed calcium in early spring as well).

Bake rinsed eggshells for 20 minutes at 250°F (120°C). Crush them to smaller-than-a-dime size. Serve the eggshells in a dish or on a low platform feeder, separate from the seed. Or, mix with suet or peanut butter.

27. Choose two of the bird feeders described in the article. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of making each feeder. Use information from the article to support your answer.

### Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of the advantages and disadvantages of making two of the feeders described in the article. Comparison includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides an explanation of the advantages and disadvantages of making two of the feeders described in the article. Comparison includes supporting information from the article but lacks specificity, relevance, and/or development.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of the advantages and/or disadvantages of making one or two of the feeders described in the article. Comparison includes limited information from the article and/or is partially correct.
1	Response makes a vague or minimal statement about one or two of the feeders described in the article.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

### Scoring Notes

The student should select two from among the following list of bird feeders and explain the advantages and disadvantages of making each one:

#### Basic Suet Mixture

- Advantages: Few ingredients; measurements are easy because they are approximate; only a few steps in the recipe
- Disadvantages: Suet or fat has to be bought or made; need parent's help with melting; recipe does not describe what kind of containers to use or how to serve the mixture to the birds

#### Super-Simple Seed Cubes

- Advantages: Most of the ingredients are easy to find; the picture helps you see how to make the cubes; there are only a few steps in the process
- Disadvantages: They take longer to be ready (have to freeze); more cubes would take longer to hang outside vs. one suet block; strings might get messy or tangled before you put the tray in the freezer

#### Bird Bell

- Advantages: More birds can come to this large feeder; may look nicer than tin cans hanging in your yard; looks unique and creative
- Disadvantages: More complicated recipe than others; more ingredients and measuring required; more things have to be made (cardboard circle, hole in cup, yarn loop); cup must be peeled away after mixture hardens; more ingredients might have to be bought (peanut butter, cornmeal, etc.)

### Bird Cupcakes

- Advantages: Easier than the Bird Bell because there is no cup to peel away; can make many at once
- Disadvantages: Need to find a muffin tin, grease it, and clean it up when done; removing the sticks and threading the yarn might be difficult

### Suet Cakes

- Advantages: Not too many ingredients; a simple recipe; people are likely to have the containers on hand
- Disadvantages: Not much different than Basic Suet Mixture; recipe does not explain how to hang these with the yarn

### Sunflower Seed Log

- Advantages: Looks nice to hang in your yard; one large treat supplies many birds; many ingredients for a variety that birds will like
- Disadvantages: Recipe has many ingredients that have to be measured and mixed; rolling in sunflower seeds might be messy; would take longer than Winter Breakfast because it has to be chilled; once birds eat some of the log, the yarn might come undone

### Winter Breakfast

- Advantages: Easy to make because (besides cooking the oatmeal) it mostly involves mixing ingredients and putting them in a container; it has a variety of ingredients that birds will like
- Disadvantages: Recipe doesn't describe what a "coffee can feeder" or "feeder stick" is

### Summer Treat

- Advantages: Easy to make; ingredients are readily available; attracts interesting birds
- Disadvantages: Some birds (that don't like fruit) might not like it; fruit or jelly might spoil if birds don't eat this treat

### True Grit

- Advantages: Just one ingredient makes for a simple recipe; eggshells are something you'd likely have around (and would throw away anyway)
- Disadvantages: Have to save up eggshells to use; rinsing and baking the shells might take a while



The advantages for making the super-simple seed cube is that its easy to make, all you have to do is mix it, then freeze it, and then put a string in it. The disadvantage for making the super-simple seed cube is that you have to put in the freezer until its hard, you have to wait for it to harden. If you don't have a ice-cube tray or string you can't make it. The advantages for making bird bell is that its gonna stay together and not fall apart. The disadvantages is that it takes a lot of time to make it. If you don't put the cardboard top on correctly the bird feed is just gonna all fall out. These are some disadvantages and advantages for making a bird feeder.

The two bird-feeders I picked were the "Super-Simple Seed Cubes" and the "Bird Bell". An advantage for the "Super-Simple Seed Cubes" is they are simple to make and don't require baking. The disadvantage is it requires hot liquid which could be dangerous. An advantage to the "Bird Bell" is you can find most of the materials in your own house. A disadvantage is getting the cup of may be hard and you might break the bell.



The disadvantage of making Super-Simple Seed Cubes is that they are small, and probably won't last long. The advantage is that they are easy to make and easy to hang. The disadvantage of making a Bird Bell is that other animals could get to it. The advantages of making a Bird Bell are that you don't need special tools to make one and that birds like them.

I wold do Seed cubes because  
they can hang up in the  
tree. the SUMMER treat wold  
not hang in the tree. But it is  
good for the birds.

the Birds were standind on the  
Pote to see what's happen.

# Acknowledgments

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